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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

Spokane, Washington



Washington Water Supply Outlook

MAY 1, 1987



Foreword

How Forecasts Are Made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall. This snowfall accumulates high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are viewed in conjunction with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply outlook conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data and narratives describing current conditions.

Streamflow forecasts are cooperatively generated by Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. Forecasts become more accurate as more data affecting runoff becomes known. For this reason, forecasts are issued that reflect three future precipitation conditions — Below Normal, Average, and Above Normal. These forecasts are termed reasonable minimum, most probable, and reasonable maximum. Actual streamflow can be expected to fall between the lower and upper forecast values eight out of ten years.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation, temperature, and other parameters are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via radio telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

For More Information

Copies of Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports and other reports may be obtained from the states listed below. Because of the limited space, snow survey measurements are not published in monthly reports. An annual snow survey data summary is published by the Soil Conservation Service for each of the western states. Historical snow survey data may be obtained at those same offices.

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	201 East 9th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-3687
Arizona	201 East Indianola, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Colorado	2490 West 26th Ave., Denver, CO 80211
New Mexico	517 Gold Ave. S.W., Room 3301, Albuquerque, NM 97102
Idaho	304 North 8th Street, Room 345, Boise, ID 83702
Montana	10 East Babcock, Room 443, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59715
Nevada	1201 Terminal Way, Room 219, Reno, NV 89502
Oregon	1220 Southwest 3rd Ave., Room 1640, Portland, OR 97208
Utah	4402 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, WA 99201
Wyoming	Federal Building, 100 East "B" Street, Casper, WY 82601

In addition to state reports, a Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States is published by the Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service monthly, January through May. Reports may be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service, West National Technical Center, 511 Northwest Broadway, Room 547, Portland, OR 97209.

Published by other agencies:

Water Supply Outlook Reports prepared by other agencies include: California — Snow Survey Branch, California Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802; British Columbia — The Ministry of Environment, Water Investigations Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X5; Yukon Territory — Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Northern Operations Branch, 200 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 3V1; Alberta, Environment Technical Services Division, 9820 106th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6.

Washington Water Supply Outlook

and

Federal — State — Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

Issued by

Wilson Scaling Chief Soil Conservation Service Washington, D.C.

Released by

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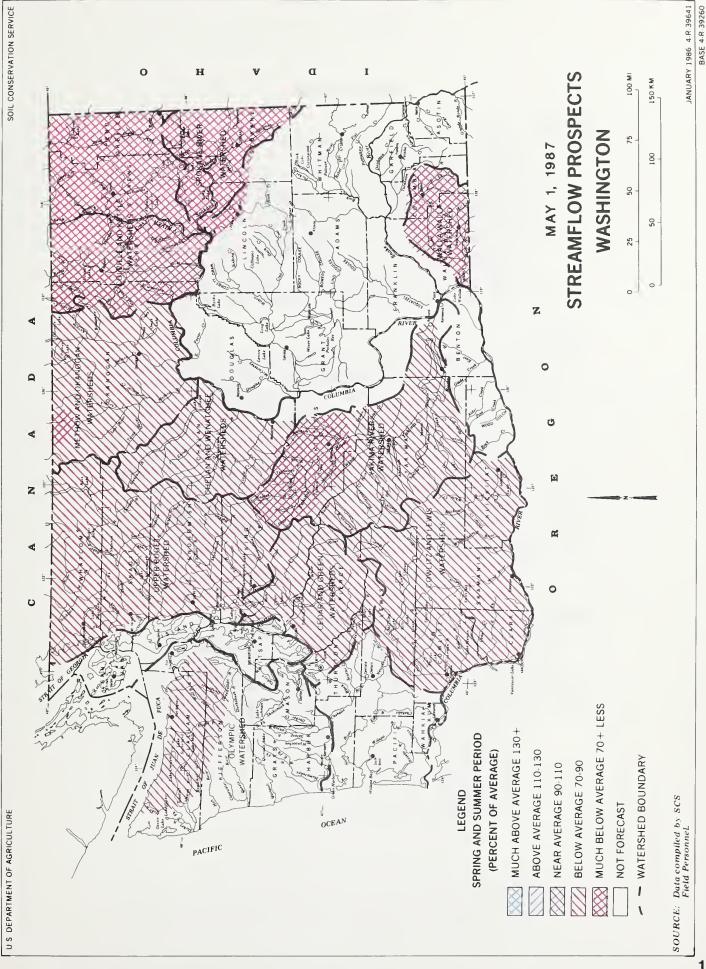
Prepared by

William F. Weller Water Supply Specialist Room 360 U.S. Courthouse Spokane, Washington 99201

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GENERAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY:

1987 will go down as a poor water year in Washington State. The snowpack, except in isolated areas, is gone. Stream runoff has for the most part occurred. Above normal temperature continued during April. Reservoir storage, while somewhat improved, remains below normal at the major irrigation projects throughout the state. Washington's May water supply forecasts indicate below normal runoff for 1987 in eastern Washington. Snow cover and precipitation continue to be below average. April streamflows were above average except in Southern Washington.

SNOWPACK:

The snowpack has disappeared, or has been low since early winter, from below an elevation of about 4200 feet. Eight of 37 SNOTEL sites are bare of snow. Eastern Washington continues to be much below average with the Spokane Basin at 47% of normal, and the Colville-Pend Oreille River 51% of average. The eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains have decreased from last month with the Wenatchee-Chelan Basin at 76%, down from 88% last month and the Yakima Basin at 59%, down from 79%. On the western slopes of the Cascades the Lewis and Cowlitz basins are at 59% and the Skagit and Olympic at 74% of normal.

PRECIPITATION:

Precipitation in April was normal along the western slope of the Cascade Mountains; below average along the eastern slope of the Cascades and much below normal for the rest of Eastern Washington. April precipitation values from SNOTEL sites indicate a water year value near 87% of average for the high mountain areas of Washington. National Weather Service data for Washington showed the Pend Oreille Basin with 76% of normal and the Spokane with 68%; both on the low side. The Yakima at 102% and the White-Green Basin with 102%, had the highest percentage of precipitation.

RESERVOIRS:

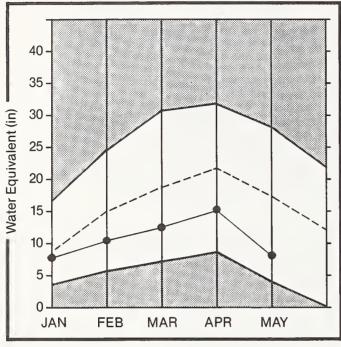
Irrigators dependent on reservoir storage will likely have near normal supply through early summer. May 1 reservoir storage in the Yakima Basin was 727,800 acre feet is 93% of average, up from 71% last month. Other major irrigation reservoir storage remains good in Washington for April 1, with Roosevelt at 328% of normal and being held high due to low summer runoff forecasts. Banks Lake is at 159% and the Okanogan reservoirs at 102% of average. The power reservoirs contain the following: Coeur d' Alene Lake 281,200 acre feet or 97% of capacity, Chelan Lake 213,100 acre feet at 32% of capacity and Ross Lake at 773,200 acre feet or 55% of capacity.

STREAMFLOW:

April streamflows varied widely with a minimum flow of 38% of normal from the Walla Walla River and the maximum of 178% from the Similkameen River. On the west side of the Cascade Mountains, runoff from the Chehalis was 55%, the Skagit 109% and the Skykomish 121% of normal. The eastern slope of the Cascades runoff remained high with the Yakima at 113%, Wenatchee at 145%, and the Okanogan at 109% of average. The Columbia River was 121% at the International Border. In Eastern Washington, the Spokane streamflow was 83% of normal and the Pend Oreille 110%. Above normal runoff over much of Washington during March and April has resulted in reduced forecasted summer streamflows in most state streams and rivers. Forecasts vary from 51% in the Spokane River to 81% in the Skagit River.

SPOKANE

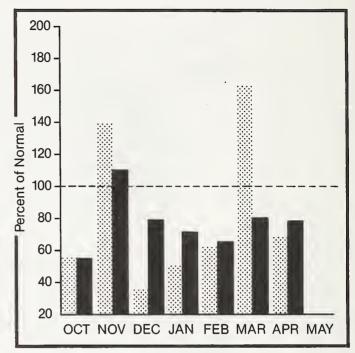
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation

Year to date precipitation

SPOKANE RIVER BASIN

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Forecasted summer runoff is 51% of normal. This forecast is based upon a snowpack that is 47% of average and a water year to date precipitation value of 79% of normal. Precipitation for April was 68% of average. April streamflow on the Spokane River was 83% of average at Spokane. Storage in Coeur d' Alene Lake was 281,200 acre feet compared to 289,300 last year; average storage in Cd'A for April 1 is 317,200 acre feet. Maximum measured snowpack occurred at the Lost Lake snow course with 77 inches of snow and 35.5 inches of water content. Temperatures in Spokane for April were 5 degrees above normal.

SPOKANE RIVER BASIN

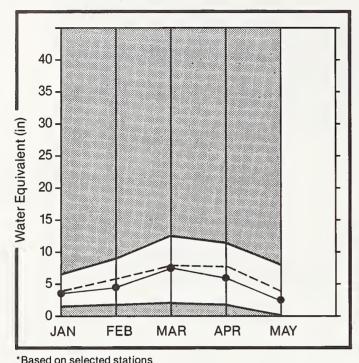
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)		REAS. MIN. (1000AF)			
SPOKANE at Post Falls	MAY-SEP MAY-JUL	1956.0 1858.0	1010.0 950.0	52 51	1440.0 1360.0	74 73	580.0 540.0	30 29		
SPOKANE at Long Lake	MAY-JUL	2097.0	1070.0	51	1530.0	73	610.0	29		
	RESERVOIR STORAGE	(1000AF)	 		WATERSH	HED SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS		
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI		BLE STORAG	-	WATERSHED		NO. COUR		YEAR	AS %
	·	YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I			AVG'	D LAST	YR.	AVERA
COEUR D'ALENE	291.2		289.3	317.2	Spokane Ri	ver	11	70		33

 ^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.
 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

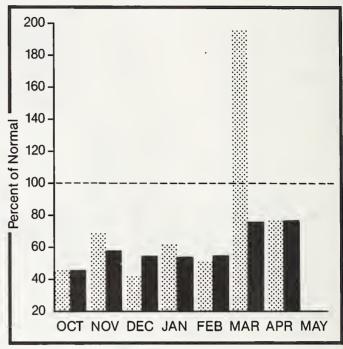
The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

COLVILLE AND PEND OREILLE





Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



Monthly precipitation

Year to date precipitation

COLVILLE - PEND OREILLE RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Streamflows for the Pend Oreille River are Forecasted to be 58% of normal for this summer. Other forecasts are the Kettle River 60%, and the Colville River 59% of normal for the summer runoff period. Snow cover basin-wide is 73% of average. Maximum snowpack measurement for the basin was at Schweitzer Ridge with 80 inches of snow and 43 inches of water. Precipitation during April was 76% of average bringing the water year to date to 76% of normal. Streamflows for April were 110% of average on the Pend Oreille River, 109% on the Kettle River and 121% on the Columbia River at the International Border.

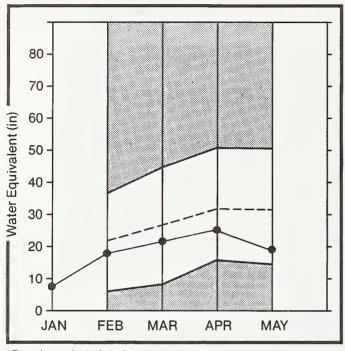
COLVILLE - PEND OREILLE RIVER BASINS

FORECAST POINT		AVG.		PROBABLE	MAX.	MAX.		REAS. MIN. (% AVG.)	
PEND OREILLE RIVER bl Box Canyon 2	MAY-SEP	13100.0	7610.0	58	10230.0	78	4990.0	38	
	MAY-JUL	11840.0	6790.0	57	9160.0	77	4420.0	37	
		9879.0	25 000000000000000000000000000000000000	57	7610.0	77	4990.0 4420.0 3650.0	37	
CHAMOKANE CREEK		9.2		57	9.0	98	2.0		
	JUL-AUG	3.6	1.9	53	3.0	83	0.0	0	
COLVILLE RIVER at Kettle Falls	MAY-SEP	89.0	52.0	58	85.0	96	19.0	21	
	MAY-JUL	78.0	46.0	59	75.0	96	17.0	22	
	MUL-YAM	68.0	40.0	59	65.0	96	15.0	22	
KETTLE RIVER or Laurier	MAY-SEP	1644.0	1010.0	61	1310.0	80	710.0	43	
	MAY-JUL	1545.0	945.0	61	1220.0	79	670.0	43	
	MUL-YAM	1362.0	B30.0	61	1080.0	79	590.0	43	
COLUMBIA RIVER at Birchbank 2	MAY-SEP	41540.0	35400.0	85	42460.0	102	28340.0	68	
	MAY-JUL	32600.0	27400.0	84	32940.0	101	21860.0	67	
	MUL-YAM	22800.0	19200.0	84	23100.0	101	15300.0	67	
COLUMBIA RIVER at Grand Coulee 2	MAY-SEP	59780.0	45900.0	77	51880.0	87	39920.0	67	
	MAY-JUL	49060.0			42210.0		32390.0	66	
	MUL-YAM	36760.0	27940.0	76	31320.0	85	24260.0	66	
				38.0					
RESERVOIR	STORAGE	(1000AF)	1		WATERSH	IED SNOWPACI	ANALYSIS	
			BLE STORAG	•			NO.	THTS YEA	AR AS % OF
RESERVOIR	CAPACITYI	THIS	LAST	1	WATERSHED		COURS	SES	
	١	YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I			AVG ' [LAST YR	AVERAGE
ROOSEVELT	5232.0	4296.2	2700.7 1	310.0	Colville R			0	
BANKS	715.0	693.5	661.5	435.0	Pend Oreil	le River	10	87	54
		Seme		i	Kettle Riv	er	7	57	42

^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

OKANOGAN AND METHOW

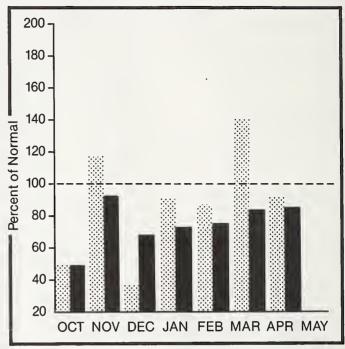
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



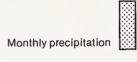
*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



Year to date precipitation

OKANOGAN - METHOW RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Summer runoff forecasted for the Okanogan River is 72% of normal. The Similkameen River 66% and the Methow River is 74% of normal. Okanogan River streamflow was at 109% of average for April, while on the Similkameen River it was 178%. Temperatures for April were 8 degrees above normal, continuing the early snow melt. Snow cover as of April 1 is 59% of average on the Okanogan-Methow Basin, down from 77% last month. Maximum snowwater at the measured courses occurred at Harts Pass, elevation 6000 feet, with 81 inches of snow and 36 inches of water content. April precipitation in the Okanogan was at 92% with water year to date 85% of average. Storage in the Conconully Reservoirs is at 16,300 acre feet which is 69% of capacity and 102% of May 1 average.

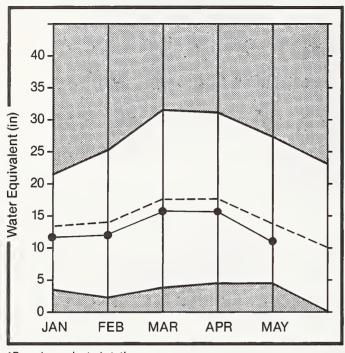
OKANOGAN - METHOW RIVER BASINS

	FORECAST		MOST	MOST	REAS.	REAS.	REAS.	REAS.	
FORECAST FOINT		AVG.		PROBABLE	MAX.	MAX.	MIN.	MIN.	
	PERIOO	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	
SIMILKAMEEN R. or Nighthawk	MAY-SEP	1345.0	905.0	67	1170.0	87	340.0	25	
•	JUL-YAM	1246.0	830.0	67	1080.0	87	580.0	47	
	MUL-YAM	1042.0	700.0	67	900.0	86	490.0	47	
OKANOGAN R. or Tonasket	MAY-SEP	1527.0	1100.0	72	1340.0	88	860.0	56	
	MAY-JUL	1367.0	975.0	71	1190.0	87	760.0	56	
	MUL-YAM	1123.0	800.0	71	980.0	87	620.0	55	
METHOW RIVER or Pateros	MAY-SEP	898.0	660.0	73	880.0	98	440.0	49	
HEITION KIVEK III 1800105	MAY-JUL	824.0	610.0	74	810.0	98	410.0	50	
	MUL-YAM	687.0	510.0	74	680.0	99	350.0	51	
	THIT GOIN	00, 10			50010	.,	00010		
				1					
RESERVOI	R STORAGE	(1000AF)	1		WATERSH	IEO SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS	
	USEABLE I	** IICE/	ELE STORAG	(NO+	TUTC	YEAR AS % OF
RESERVOIR	CAPACITY		LAST		WATERSHED		COUR		TEHN HO & UF
NESERVOIN	CHI HCIIII	YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I	ARTEKSHED		AVG '		YR. AVERAGE
CONCONULLY LAKE (SALMON)	10.5	8.6	8.6	8.0 1	Okanogan R	iver	26	63	 57
CONCONULLY RESERVOIR	13.0	7.7	8.1	8.0 1	Methow Riv	, ar	2	83	61

¹ - Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

WENATCHEE AND CHELAN

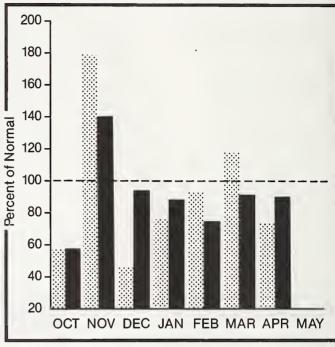
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



WENATCHEE - CHELAN RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

April streamflow within the basin was 145% of normal. Runoff for the Wenatchee River is forecast to be 75% of normal, down from 85% last month. Forecasts in the Chelan and Stehekin River runoff are for 73% of average. Stemilt and Icicle are forecast at 72% and 74%. April precipitation was 74% of normal in the basin and 90% for the water year to date. Reservoir storage in Lake Chelan is at 213,100 acre feet or 47% of May 1 average and 32% of capacity. Snowpack in the Wenatchee-Chelan Basin is 76% of normal, down from 88% last month. Lyman Lake had the most snowwater with 55.6 inches in 108 inches of snow as of May 1.

WENATCHEE - CHELAN RIVER BASINS

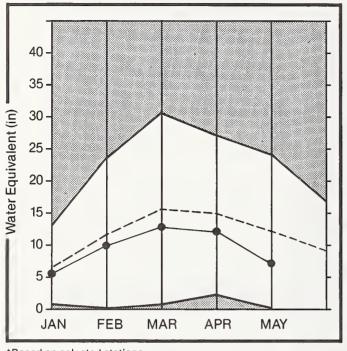
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	AVG.		MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)		REAS. MAX. (% AVG.)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (% AVG.)	
CHELAN RIVER at Chelan 1	MAY-SEP	1075.0	785.0	73	950+0	88	620.0	58	
	MAY-JUL	931.0	690.0	74	830.0	89	550.0	59	
	MUL-YAM	707.0	520.0	74	630.0	89	410.0	58	
STEHEKIN R. at Stehekin	MAY-SEP	775.0	570.0	74	650.0	84	490.0	63	
	MAY-JUL	645.0	480.0	74	560.0	87	420.0	65	
	MUL-YAM	473.0	350.0	74	840.0	178	310.0	66	
NTIAT RIVER or Ardenvoir	MAY-SEP	217.0	160.0	74	190.0	88	130.0	60	
The state of the s	MAY-JUL	195.0	145.0	74	175.0		115.0	59	
	MUL-YAM	155.0	115.0	74	140.0	90	90.0	58	
WENATCHEE RIVER at Plain	MAY-SEP	1136.0	850.0	75	1230.0	108	480.0	42	
KENNICHEE KIVEK 80 1 18111	MAY-JUL	1002.0	750.0	75	1080.0	108	420.0	42	
		765.0	570.0	75 75	820.0	107	320.0	42	
	MUL-YAM	\0J+0	379.0	/3	820+0	107	320+0	42	
ENATCHEE R. at Peshastin	MAY-SEP	1489.0	1100.0	74	1590+0	107	610.0	41	
	MAY-JUL	1327.0	980.0	74	1420.0	107	540.0	41	
	MUL-YAM	1027.0	760.0	74	1100.0	107	420.0	41	
TEMILT or Wenatchee (miners in)	MAY-SEF	138.0	99.0	72	145.0	105	53.0	38	
CICLE CREEK or Leavenworth	APR-SEP	370.0	290.0	78	410.0	111	170.0	46	
2222 311211 111 223 (21110) 311	APR-JUL	340.0	265.0	78	380.0	112	150.0	44	
	APR-JUN	270.0	210.0	78	300.0	111	120.0	44	
OLUMBIA R. bl Rock Island Dam 2	MAY-SEF	65060.0	50200.0	77	57360+0	88	43040.0	66	
	MAY-JUL	53860.0	41200.0	76	47130+0		35380.0	66	
	MUL-YAM	40550.0	30820.0	76	35280.0	87		65	
RESERVOIR	STORAGE	(100 0 AF)	1		WATERSH	IED SNOWPACI	K ANALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I		BLE STORAG		WATERSHED		NO. COURS		EAR AS % OF
VESEKAOTK	CAPACITY!	YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG. I	MHIEKSHED		AVG'		R. AVERAGE
HELAN LAKE	676.1	213.1	382.8	448.8	Chelan Lak	e Basin	4	103	85
				1	Entiat Riv	er	0	0	0
					Wenatchee	River	4	104	65
		10.0		1	Colockum C	reek	1	0	0
				i	001001.011		-	· ·	
				i	Squilchuck		0		0

^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

YAKIMA

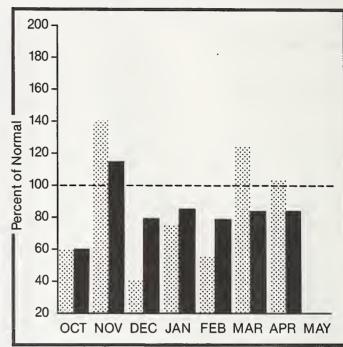
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



Year to date precipitation

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Reservoir storage is improved with May 1 values for the five major reservoirs at 727,800 acre feet or 93% of normal. Drafting of reservoir storage has started to meet irrigation water demand. April streamflow for the Yakima Basin was 113% of normal. Forecasts for the Yakima Basin runoff are lower than last month. These vary throughout the basin as follows: the Yakima River at Cle Elum 66%, Naches River 70%, the Yakima River at Parker 70% and Ahtanum Creek 74%. Snowpack is 58% of average in the Yakima Basin based upon measurements at 17 snow courses; last month it was 79% of normal. April precipitation was 104% of normal and 84% for the water year to date. April temperatures were four degrees above average.

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN

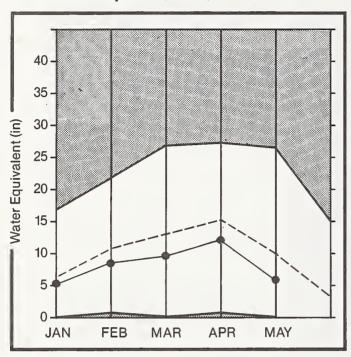
FORECAST POINT		25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)		PROBABLE	MAX.	MAX.	MIN.	MIN.
			3					
YAKIMA RIVER at Martin 1	MAY-SEP	109.0	70.0	64	83.0	76	57.0	52
	MAY-JUL	100.0	64.0	64	76.0	76	52.0	52
	MUL-YAM	85.0	70.0 64.0 54.0	64	64.0	75	44.0	52
AKIMA RIVER at Cle Elum 2	MAY-SEP	786.0	520.0	66	620.0	79	420.0	53
	MAY-JUL	682.0	450.0	66	540.0	79	360.0	53
	NUL-YAM	570.0	380.0	67	450.0	79	300.0	53
AKIMA RIVER or Parker 2	MAY-SEP	1682.0	1200.0	71	1520.0	90	880,0	52
	MAY-JUL	1469.0	1040.0	71	1320.0			52
	MUL-YAM	1250.0	890+0	71	1130.0	90	350.0	28
ACHESS RIVER or Easton 1	MAY-SEP	108.0	71.0	66	86.0	80	56.0	52
	AUL-YAM	89.0		65	70.0	80 79	46.0	52
	NUL-YAM	77.0	50.0		60.0			52
LE ELUM RIVER or Roslyn 1	MAY-SEP	393.0	270.0	69	320.0	81	220.0	56
,	MAY-JUL	353.0	240.0		280.0			
		289.0	200	69	240.0		170.0	59
UMPING RIVER or Nile 1	MAY-SEP	123.0	86.0	70	104.0	85	68.0	55
	MAY-JUL	112.0			95.0	85		
	MUL-YAM	90.0		70	77.0			
MERICAN RIVER or Nile	MAY-SEP	107.0	75.0	70	88.0	82	62.0	58
	MAY-JUL	97.0	68.0	70	80.0			
	MUL-YAM	79.0					49.0	
IETON RIVER at Tieton 1	MAY-SEP	213.0	160.0	75	190.0	89	130.0	61
	MAY-JUL	177.0	135.0	76	160.0	90	100.0	
	MUL-YAM	136.0	100.0	74	120.0		80.0	59
ACHES RIVER or Naches 2	MAY-SEP	726.0	530.0	73	630.0	97	430.0	59
	MAY-JUL	645.0		73		87		
		533.0	390.0	73	470.0	88	320.0	
HTANUM CREEK or Tampico 2	MAY-SEP	39.0	29.0	74	38.0	97	20.0	51
	MAY-JUL	35.0	24.0	74	34.0	97	18.0	51
		29.0			28.0	97	20.0 18.0 16.0	55
RESER	VOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	 		WATERS	HED SNOWPAG	CK ANALYSIS
	USEABLE		ABLE STORAG					THIS YEAR AS %

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	WATERSHE	D SNOWPACK AN	ALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI I	×x™USE THIS YEAR	ABLE STOR	AGE ** ! AVG. !	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR	
KEECHELUS	157.8	130.7	130.4	119.0 l	Yakima River	12	93	58
KACHESS	239.0	126.7	181.7	197.0 l	Ahtanum Creek	2	89	75
CLE ELEM	436.9	246.0	299.6	308.0 1				
BUMPING LAKE	33.7	33.8	15.7	15.0 l				
RIMROCK	198.0	190.6	168.6	144.0				

¹ - Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

WALLA WALLA

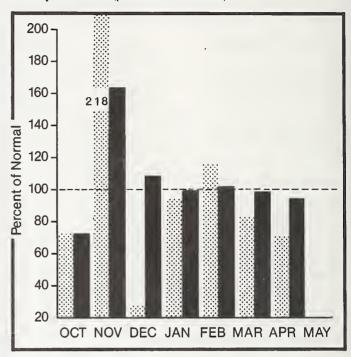
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



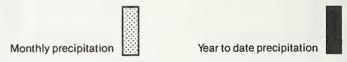
*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



WALLA WALLA RIVER BASIN

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Streamflow for the Walla Walla River was at 38% of normal for April. Forecasts are 54% of average. Streamflow in the Walla Walla Basin for the coming summer is down from 70% last month. April precipitation was 71% of average and the water year to date precipitation has been 94% of normal. Snowpack in the Walla Walla River Basin is estimated to be 40% of normal. April temperatures were four degree's above average. Water content at the Touchet SNOTEL site was at 7.6 inches as of May 1 compared to an average of near 29 inches.

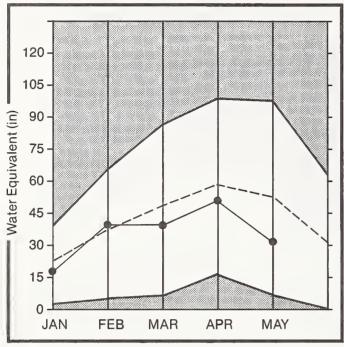
WALLA WALLA RIVER BASIN

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOO	AVG.	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (% AVG.)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (% AVG.)			
					·						
MILL CREEK at Walla Walla	MAY-SEP	7.7	3.8	49	7.0	91	1.0	13			
	MAY-JUL	7.5	3.6	48	6.0	80	1.0	13			
	MUL-YAM	7.3	3.5	48	6.0	82	1.0	14			
SF WALLA WALLA or MiltonFreewater	MAY-JUL	39.0	21.0	54	29.0	74	13.0	33			
COUSE CK or Milton Freewater	MAY-JUL	1.6	0.8	50	1.0	62	0.0	0			
PINE CREEK near Weston	MAY-JUL	0.8	0.4	50	1.0	125	0.0	0			
COLUMBIA R. at The Dalles 2	MAY-SEP	88790+0	58200.0	66	69740.0	79	46660.0	53			
	MAY-JUL	74070.0	47800.0	65	57430.0	78	38170.0	52			
	MUL-YAM	57430.0	37330.0	ර්රි	44800.0	78	29860.0	52			
RESERVOIR	STORAGE	(1000AF)	 - 		WATERSH	IEO SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS			
SERFINATO.			BLE STORAG				, ОМ		YEAR	AS %	 . OF
RESERVOIR			LAST YEAR	AVG. I	WATERSHED		COUR AVG'		YR.	AVEF	AGE
				i	Mill Creek		1	0		0	

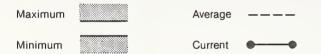
 ^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.
 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
 The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

COWLITZ AND LEWIS

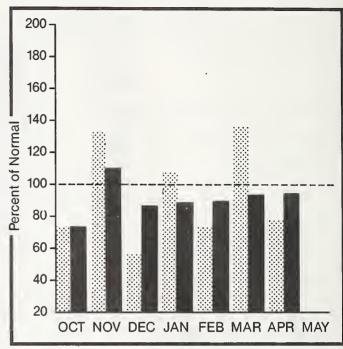
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation

Year to date precipitation

COWLITZ - LEWIS RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

May forecasts for the Lewis River is 75% and for the Cowlitz River 71%. May I snow cover for the Cowlitz-Lewis Basin is at 59% of normal down from 86% for April 1. The Plains of Abraham SNOTEL site still maintained the maximum water content for the basin with a snowpack containing 74.1 inches of water on May 1. April precipitation was 78% of normal bringing the water year to date precipitation to 94% of average. Temperatures averaged four degrees above normal for April. Climbing Mt. St Helens on a permit basis is now available from the US Forest Service.

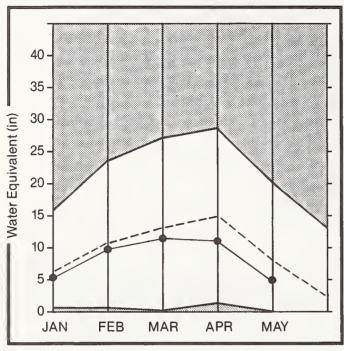
COWLITZ - LEWIS RIVER BASINS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST	AVG.		MOST PROBABLE	REAS. MAX.	REAS. MAX.	REAS. MIN.	REAS. MIN.		
	PERIOD	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)		
EWIS RIVER at Ariel 2	MAY-SEP	892.0	670.0	75	880.0	99	460.0	52		
	MAY-JUL	732.0	550.0	75	730.0	100	370.0	51		
	MAY-JUN	606.0	450.0	74	600.0	99	300.0	50		
COWLITZ R. bl Mayfield Dam 2	MAY-SEP	1604.0	1140.0	71.	1930.0	120	350.0	22		
•	JUL-YAM	1350.0	960.0	71	1620.0	120	300.0	22		
	MUL-YAM	1092.0	780.0	71	1320.0	121	250.0	23		
OWLITZ R. at Castle Rock 2	MAY-SEP	2050.0	1450.0	71	2460.0	120	450.0	22		
	MAY-JUL	1706.0	1210.0	71	2050.0	120	370.0	22		
	MUL-YAM	1378.0	980.0	71	1660.0	120	300.0	22		
RESERVO.	IR STORAGE	(1000AF)	1 1		WATERSH	ED SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS		
	USEABLE I		BLE STORAG						YEAR	AS % 0
RESERVOIR	CAPACITYI		LAST YEAR	AVG. 1	WATERSHED		COUR AVG'		YR.	AVERAG
					Cowlitz Ri	 ver	1	59		
				1						

¹ - Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

WHITE - GREEN

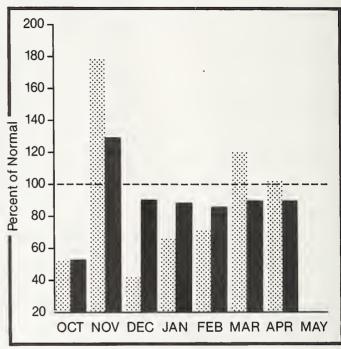
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



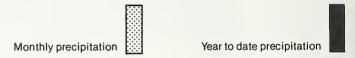
*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



WHITE - GREEN RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

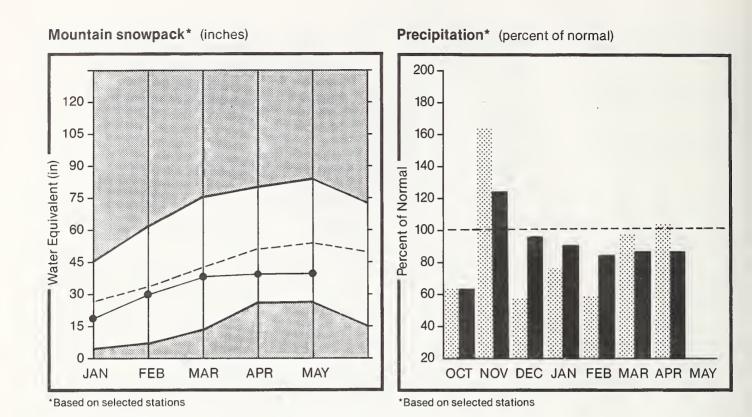
April precipitation was 102% of normal, bringing the water year to date to 90% of average. Snowpack is 64% of normal for the basin, down from 85% last month. Summer runoff is forecasted to be 77% of normal on the Green River and 76% on the Cedar River. Snowwater content at the Stampede Pass SNOTEL site was 34.2 inches on May 1. Temperatures for April followed the March trend and averaged three degrees above normal resulting in a complete meltout of the low elevation snow.

WHITE - GREEN RIVER BASINS

		STREA	AMFLUW FURE	CASIS					
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	AVG.			REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (% AVG.)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	MIN.	
GREEN RIVER bl Howard Hanson Dam 2 CEDAR RIVER nr Cedar Falls	MAY-JUL MAY-JUN MAY-SEP	207.0 177.0 153.0	135.0 120.0 56.0	76 78 76	195.0 165.0 146.0	94 93 95	125.0 105.0 94.0	60 59 61 58	
	MAY-JUL MAY-JUN	65.5 54.1	50.0 41.0		61.0 50.0	93 92 	39.0 32.0	60 59 	·
RESERVOIR	STORAGE	((1000AF)	l l		WATERSH	IED SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	CAPACITY	THIS		1	WATERSHED		COUR	SES	YEAR AS % OF
	ا 	YEAR	YEAR	AVG. !					
				1	White Rive			109	91
					Green Rive	г	3	113	38

^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

NORTH PUGET SOUND



NORTH PUGET SOUND RIVER BASINS

Average

Current

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Maximum

Minimum

Runoff for the Skagit River is forecasted to be 81% of normal. Reservoir storage is above average with Ross Lake storing 773,200 acre feet as of May 1; 55% of capacity. Precipitation values for April were 101% of average with a water year to date at 88% of normal. Snowcover for April 1 in the North Puget Basin is 74% of normal with Devil's Park snowcourse at 5900 feet in elevation having 84 inches of snow and 38.0 inches of water content. Temperatures were three degrees above normal for April.

Monthly precipitation

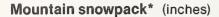
Year to date precipitation

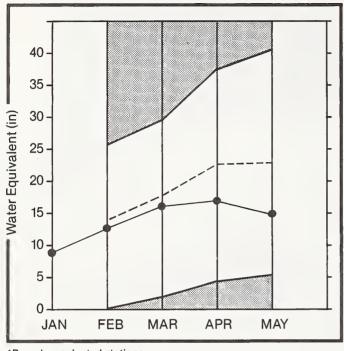
NORTH PUGET SOUND RIVER BASINS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)		MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (% AVG.)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (% AVG.)	
SKAGIT RIVER at Newhalem 2	MAY-AUG MAY-SEP MAY-JUL MAY-JUN	2532.0 2062.0 1689.0 1485.0	2050.0 1670.0 1360.0 1200.0	81 81 81 81	2430.0 1980.0 1610.0 1420.0	96 96 95 96	1670.0 1360.0 1110.0 980.0	66 66 66 66	
RESE	ERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)			WATERSH	HED SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEABLE 1 CAPACITYI I		ABLE STORAG LAST YEAR	_	WATERSHED		NO. COUR AVG'	SES	 AS % OF
ROSS	1404.1	773.2	911.8	644.4 1	Skagit Riv	er	14	101	 72
DIABLO RESERVOIR	90+6	85.3	86.1	1	Baker Rive	r	9	101	66
GORGE RESERVOIR	9.8	7.9	7.8	1	Cedar Rive	r	0	0	0
				1	Snoqualmie	River	0	0	0
		1 1		1	Skykomish	River	2	101	62

^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

OLYMPIC

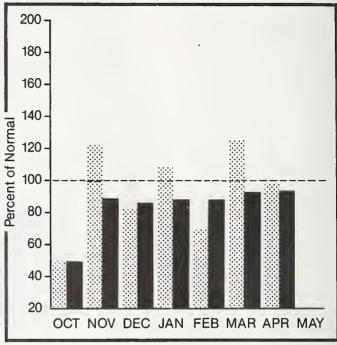




*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



OLYMPIC PENINSULA RIVER BASINS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

April precipitation was 98% of average. May 1 forecasts of runoff for streams in the basin are for 81% of average on the Dungeness River. Runoff forecast is 80% on the Elwah River. Snow cover is 62% of normal, down from 85% last month, with Cox Valley snowcourse having 68 inches of snow and 33.2 inches of water content. The water year to date accumulation is 93% of normal. Temperatures in the basin were three degrees above average for April.

OLYMPIC PENINSULA RIVER BASINS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	AVG.	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)		REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (% AVG.)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (% AVG.)		
DUNGENESS RIVER or Sequim	MAY-SEP MAY-JUL MAY-JUN	137.0 109.0 97.0	110.0 88.0 79.0	81	130.0 110.0 95.0	95 101 98	90.0 70.0 65.0	66 64 67		
ELWHA RIVER nr Port Angeles	MAY-SEP MAY-JUL	451.0 363.0	360.0 290.0		440.0 350.0	98 96	280.0 230.0	62 63		
RESERV	OIR STORAGE	((1000AF)			WATERSH	ED SNOWPAC	K ANALYSIS	- -	
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI	THIS	ABLE STORAG	1	WATERSHED		NO. COUR	SES		
		YEAR	YEAR	AVG , 	Dungeness	River	AVG' 1			AVERAGE 53
				į	Morse Cree		1	131		81
					Elwha Rive		1	192		39

^{1 -} Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

DATA CURRENT AS OF: 5/ 7/87 7: 9: 6 BASIN SUMMARY OF SNOW COURSE DATA MAY 1987

SNOW COURSE	ELEVA		OATE		HATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85	SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW OEPTH	HATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85
PENO ORETULE RIVER								COLOCKUM CREEK		30				
BENTON MEADON		370	4/29/87	0	.0	٠0	.0	TROUGH #2 PI	LLOH 5310	5/01/87		.08	.3	5.6
BENTON SPRING		720	4/29/87	4	1.6	2.8	15.4	SQUILCHUCK CREEK						
BOYER MOUNTAIN BUNCHGRASS MEADOW		250	4/28/87	28	13.6	17.1	24.8	STEMILT CREEK YAKIMA RIVER						
BUNCHGRASS MOWFIL		000	4/28/87 5/01/87	43.	18.8 18.8	15.6	29.2 26.4	AHTANUM R.S.	3100	4/24/87	o.	.0	.0	
HEART LAKE TRAIL		300	5/01/87	6	2.7	11.2	17.4	BIG BOULDER CREE		4/30/87		.0		•0 8•7
HOOOOO EASIN		050	5/01/87	63	31.1	45.9	53.2	BLEWETT PASS #2	4270	4/30/87		.0	.0	8.7
HOOOOO CREEK		700	5/01/87	54	27.2	36.8	49.3	BLEHETT PASS#2PI		5/01/87		.0S	.0	14.2
LODKOUT		140	4/30/87	28	13.6	21.6	32.7	BUMPING LAKE	3450	4/28/87	0	.0	4.4	8.7
NELSON C SCHWEITZER BOWL		100 300	4/30/87 5/01/87	1	.6 13.5E	1.3	7.2 24.2	BUMPING LAKE (NE CORRAL PASS. PI	H) 3400 LLOH 6000	4/28/87 5/01/87		.0 32.45	6.1 35.6	12.5 38.9
SCHWEITZER RIOGE		200	4/29/87	80	43.0	32.1	48.8	20804 IS NOT ON		3/01/6/		32.45	33.0	36.7
COLVILLE RIVER	0.				45.0	32.1	4010		LLOH 3370	5/01/87		17.85	18.0	26.6
KETTLE RIVER									LLDH 6000	5/01/87		15.78	17.6	20.9
		300	4/27/87	25	9.3	15.9	20.5		LLOH 5380	5/01/87		.65	6.1	12.9
		510 100	5/02/87 5/02/87	22	9.3	20.8	19.9	MORSE LAKE PI STAMPEDE PASS PI	LLOH 5400 LLOH 3860	5/01/87 5/01/87		52.98	42.8	55.3
		000	4/29/87	4	1.0	.0 5.8	1.7		LLOW 4200	5/01/87		34.25 14.55	24.0 22.0	51.5 33.5
MONASHEE PASS C		500	4/27/87	11	3.9	9.6	12.8	TUNNEL AVENUE	2450	4/29/87		.0	3.3	14.3
TRAPPING CK LOW C		050	5/02/87	ō	.0	.0	.0	WHITE PASS E.S.	4500	4/27/87		12.9	15.6	24.0
TRAPPING CK UP C		960	5/02/87	0	.0	1.3	5.6	WHITE PASS ES PI	LLOH 4500	5/01/87		10.35	17.6	24.8
OMAK LAKE, THIN LAKES	•							AHTANUM CREEK						
SPOKANE RIVER ABOVE BURKE	4.	100	4/30/87	R	2.0	8.0	10.7	AHTANUM R.S. GREEN LAKE PI	3100 LLOH 6000	4/24/87 5/01/87		.0	.0	.0
FOURTH OF JULY SU		200	5/01/87	0	2.8	8.0	18.6	MILL CREEK	LLUM 8000	3/01/6/		15.78	17.6	20.9
LOOKOUT		140	4/30/87	28	13.6	21.6	32.7	HIGH RIOGE PI	LLOW 4980	5/01/87		.05	5.5	20.8
LOST LAKE		110	4/29/87	77	35.5	42.9	60.1		LLOH 5530	5/01/87	/	7.6		
MOSOUITO RIOGE		200	5/01/87		18.2E		36.6	LEHIS AND COHLITZ RI						
SHERHIN SUNSET		200	4/29/87		0	• 0	4.6		LLOW 3200	5/01/87		10.35	7.0	24.8
NEWMAN LAKE	55	540	5/01/87		18.0E		32.8	PLAINS OF ABRAHA	LLOH 3800 M ST 4400	5/01/87 5/01/87		20.8S 74.1S	17.3 49.0	45.1 76.3
	LOW 47	700	4/29/87	13	5.3				LLOH 4500	5/01/87		7.45	18.3	27.3
RAGGEO RIOGE		330	5/01/87	0	• 0				LLOH 4050	5/01/87		12.95	5.5	43.7
OKANOGAN RIVER									LLOH 3400	5/01/87		11.55	10.2	26.6
		300	4/30/87	0	.0	1.8	1.7		LLOW 3100	5/01/87		. os	.0	• 0
BLACKHALL PEAK C		370 300	4/28/87	62 13	31.4 5.6	30.7 12.0	36+3 9+8	STRAWBERRY L. PI SURPRISE LKS PI		5/01/87		39.85	37 . 4	53.0
		200	5/01/87	7	3.2	2.2	5.1	WHITE PASS E.S.	LLOH 4250 4500	5/01/87 4/27/87		25.3S	36.7 15.6	55.6 24.0
		200	4/30/87		37.4	44.9	42.9	WHITE PASS ES PI	LLOH 4500	5/01/87		10.35	17.6	24.8
ESPERON CK. LO C		100	4/26/87	4	1.3	6+8	8.9	WHITE RIVER						
ESPERON CK. MIO C		590	4/26/87	11	4.1	9.5	11.9		LLOH 6000	5/01/87		32.45	35.6	38.9
ESPERON CK. UP C		110	4/26/87	21	8.3	12.7	17.5 7.7		LLOH 5400	5/01/87		52.98	42.8	55.3
		120 390	4/29/8/	21	8.0	10.2	12.6	GREEN RIVER COUGAR MIN. PI	LLOH 3200	5/01/87		.05	1.6	20.8
		500	5/01/87		38.85	46.5	56.7	GRASS MOUNTAIN #		4/30/87		.05	.0	20.8
		500	4/25/87	7	2.4	7.0	6.3	LESTER CREEK	3100	4/30/87	ŏ	. 0	11.8	
LOST HORSE MIN C		300	4/30/87	12	3.7	11.0	10.3	LYNN LAKE	4000	4/30/87		•8	5.5	20.7
		200	4/30/87	0	.0	. 7	2.4	SAHMILL RIDGE	4700	4/30/87		18.4		
		090	4/27/87	13	5.3	9.5	7.0	STAMPEDE PASS PI		5/01/87		34.25	24.0	51.5
		800	4/30/87	24	10.2	22.8	21.8	THIN CAMP	4100	4/30/87	29	14.2	15.0	
		50 0 700	4/27/87	11 25	3.9 8.7	9.6 13.0	12.8 13.3	CEOAR RIVER SNOQUALMIE RIVER						
		400	4/27/87	-0	.0	2.2	3.1	SKYKOMISH RIVER						
		500	4/28/87	0	.0	6.9	6.4	STEVENS PASS PI	LLOH 4070	5/01/87		25.95	28.2	41.3
SALMON HOMS FIL		500	5/01/87		.05	.0	7.4	STEVENS PASS SAN		4/29/87	40	19.0	16.1	31.3
SILVER STAR MTN C		000	4/26/87		22.9	30.2	29.7	SKAGIT RIVER		A / = = · = =	_			
SUMMERLAND RES C SUNDAY SUMMIT C		200 300	4/25/87 4/24/87	3	1.1	6.6	6.3 .8	BEAVER CREEK TRA: BEAVER PASS	IL 2200 3680	4/29/87 4/28/87	0 47	.0 22.7	17.7	4.9 29.3
		590	4/27/87	2	•7	4.1	4.8	BROWN TOP	AM 6000	4/28/8/	121	55.0	56.2	63.3
		500	4/27/87	ō	.0	3.7	3.0	OEVILS PARK	5900	4/28/87	84	38.0	39.2	46.2
WHITE ROCKS HTN C		000	5/04/87	32	13.8	19.6	22.4	FREEZEOUT CK. TR	AIL 3500	4/29/87	5	1.7	2.1	7.8
METHOW RIVER								GRANITE CREEK	3500	4/28/87	9	3.6	3.6	12.6
		500	5/01/87		38.85	46.5	56.7		LLOW 6500	5/01/87		38.85	46.5	56.7
SALMON MOWS PIL	LUM 45	500	5/01/87		.09	.0	7.4		CAN. 3710	4/24/87	0	8.8	.0 8.5	8.3 11.5
CHELAN LAKE BASIN CLOUDY PASS	AH 65	700	4/28/87	72	32.4			LIGHTNING LAKE LYMAN LAKE PI	CAN. 4000 LLOW 5900	4/24/87 5/01/87	23	55.58	52.4	67.5
		700	5/01/87		55.58	52.4	67.5	MEADONS CABIN	1900	4/29/87	0	.0	32.7	1.3
LITTLE HOHS		280	4/28/87	70	31.5			NEW HOZOMEEN LAK	E 2800	4/29/87	0	• 0	.0	6.0
MIRROR LAKE PIL		500	5/01/87		35.7S	29.3	33.5	RAINY PASS PI	LLOH 4780	5/01/87		36.05	36.6	45.4
PARK CK RIOGE PIL		500	5/01/87		30.95	35.5	39.9	THUNOER BASIN	2400	4/29/87	36	15.6	9 • 8	22.8
RAINY PASS PIL	LOW 47	780	5/01/87		36.05	36.6	45.4	BAKER RIVER						
ENTIAT RIVER WENATCHEE RIVER								OUNGENESS RIVER OEER PARK	5200	4/29/87	24	11.1	8.1	21.1
BLEWETT FASS #2	4:	270	4/30/87	0	.0	.0	8.7	MORSE CREEK	3200	7/27/8/	24	1111	0.1	2111
BLEWETT PASS#2PIL		270	5/01/87		.os	. 0	14.2	COX VALLEY	4500	4/26/87	68	33.2	25.4	40.8
LYMAN LAKE FIL	LOW 59	90-0	5/01/87		55.58	52.4	67.5	ELWHA RIVER						
STEVENS PASS FIL	LOH 40	070	5/01/87		25.98	. 28.2	41.3	HURRICANE	4500	4/28/87	20	9.4	4.9	23.9
STEVENS PASS SAND	SO 37	700	4/29/87	40	19.0	16.1	31.3							

CONSERVE YOUR IRRIGATION WATER

Can irrigators use less water and get good yields? We think so. With energy costs on an upward spiral and water shortages likely, we offer these water saving ideas to irrigators.

Consider ditch lining or gated pipe. This will reduce the 10-90% loss which occurs in earth ditches.

Keep ditches clean and free from weeds, sediment or other debris, which can slow water velocity, affect delivery rate, and increase evaporation.

Make sure head gates, drop structures, and pipe inlets are operational. A washed out structure is water lost.

Inspect ditch banks for rodent damage. Rodent holes cause leakage or failures.

Make sure sprinkler nozzles are not worn or leaky. Check pipe connections nd valves to prevent leaks.

Operate sprinklers at recommended pressure to effectively use available water.

Maintain your pump at peak efficiency to save energy.

BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT
Better water management may require
more labor. It may require changing a
head of water in the middle of the
night. But it will be worth it. You
should:

Measure your water to determine how much is applied.

Consider alternate row irrigation for crops planted in furrows.

Plan short runs. Match stream size and velocity to soil intake rate and capacity.

Catch and reuse tail water where possible.

Under irrigate the lower end of the field to stretch your water.

When water is short, consider eliminating that last irrigation.

Soil Conservation Service personnel can:

Help plan and design new irrigation systems or evaluate existing ones. Provide technical assistance for land leveling, pipeline installation, and other practices.

KNOW YOUR SOILS

Soil absorbs irrigation water at a given rate. This varies with each soil type. Some crops require more water than others. Check soil moisture by spade, probe, or moisture meter. Or use the "feel" method.

WHEN IRRIGATION IS NEEDED SOIL WILL FEEL AND ACT THIS WAY

Soil Texture	A handful of soil will						
Coarse	Tend to stick together slightly, but will not form a ball						
Medium	Be crumbly, but will form a ball						
Fine	be pliable, and will form a ball.						

If you have a conservation plan on your farm, or if the soil is your area has been mapped, the Soil Conservation Service can crosscheck soil type and irrigation data and provide you with the water holding capacity of your soil for a given crop.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WASHINGTON

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
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